UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.166/PC/20/Add.14
9 January 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE WORLD
SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
Third session
New York, 16-27 January 1995
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

DRAFT OUTCOME OF THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: DRAFT DECLARATION AND DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Contributions of organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

Proposals from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has submitted for the consideration of the Preparatory Committee at its third session the annexed proposals for amendments to the draft declaration and draft programme of action (A/CONF.166/PC/L.22). They are submitted to the Preparatory Committee in the language of submission.

* A/CONF.166/PC/24.

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ANNEX

WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

FAO PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT DECLARATION AND DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTION (A/CONF.166/PC/L.22) *

SUBMITTED TO THIRD SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

NEW YORK, 16-27 JANUARY 1995

* Circulated in the language of submission only.

FAO PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS TO THE DRAFT DECLARATION AND DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (A/CONF.166/PC/L.22)

Submitted to the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development

(Proposed changes are in ***bolded italics***)

DRAFT DECLARATION

PART I

A. CURRENT SOCIAL SITUATION AND REASONS FOR CONVENING THE SUMMIT

Page 5, para. 14 (c): Amend as follows:

"(c) More than one billion people in the world live in abject poverty, ***most of whom*** (delete "and more than half") go hungry every day..."

Page 5, para. 16: Add as follows:

"The goals and objectives of social development require continuous efforts to reduce and eliminate major sources of social distress. Particular focus should be given to ***chronic hunger and malnutrition***, communicable diseases, organized crime, drug abuse, drug trafficking and related criminality, armed conflict and terrorism. In this context the negative impact, upon development, of the production and trade in arms must be acted upon."

PART II

COMMITMENTS

Commitment 2

Page 8: Add the following as a new sub-point (g):

"***(g) Reverse existing policy and investment against rural and agricultural development and provide an enabling policy and institutional environment that encourages the rural poor to participate in and benefit from the processes of social and economic development.***"

Commitment 3

Page 9: As it stands, this commitment is directed primarily to the workforce in, or aspiring to enter, formal sector urban employment. However, it would not be particularly relevant to the majority of the poor who live in rural areas and are engaged in agriculture-related activities or to those working in the informal sector. The problem is not necessarily one of creating employment but rather the very low returns to small-scale agriculture. There is thus a vital need to increase productivity and monetary returns to agriculture. Furthermore, many of the rural poor provide for their subsistence through own-account production and/or hunting, gathering and processing of natural products such as wild foods, fuel, fodder, wood and non-wood products for shelter and furnishings. The emphasis on new approaches to provide income and purchasing power, while important, needs to be balanced with the need to protect the rights to and enhance the opportunities of the poor to make use of common property resources to provide for their basic needs. With these points in mind, a number of amendments to the text are proposed below.

> "(b) Develop policies to expand work opportunities and productivity in both rural and urban sectors by investing substantially in the development of human resources, by promoting technologies that ***increase productivity and incomes, reduce labour bottlenecks and*** generate ***additional*** employment, and by encouraging self-employment and small enterprise development;
>
> "(c) Ensure that workers, ***the self-employed*** and employers have the training, ***information and credit*** needed to adapt to changing economic conditions, technologies and labour markets;
>
> "(d) Explore innovative options for employment creation and the fair distribution of work, and seek new approaches to providing ***for basic needs such as increased and more stable*** income and purchasing power;"

Commitment 4

Page 9 (b): Add as follows:

> "(b) Ensure the protection and full integration of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and individuals, including ***women and*** children, the elderly and people with disabilities;"

Commitment 5

Page 10 (d): Add as follows:

"(d) Encourage the ratification, removal of reservations, and implementation of all provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women and other relevant instruments, and implementation of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women ***and the Beijing Platform for Action***."

Commitment 6

Page 10 (a): Amend as follows:

"(a) Support economic reforms, ***programmes for increased food security,*** and commodity diversification efforts ..."

Commitment 7

Page 11 (c): Amend as follows:

"(c) Reinforce social development objectives of all adjustment policies and programs including those resulting from economic transition, globalization, and rapid change, through policies designed ***to enhance the food security of the most vulnerable groups and*** to promote equitable access to income and resources."

PROGRAMME OF ACTION

I. AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Page 15, para. 3: Insert as follows:

"Many of the issues mentioned in this Programme have been addressed in greater detail by previous world conferences concerned with questions such as the status of women, the well-being of children, population, health, ***food security and nutrition***, education and sustainable development...."

BASIS FOR ACTION AND OBJECTIVES

Page 16, para. 5: Insert as follows:

"The economies and societies of the world are becoming increasingly interdependent. Trade and capital flows, migrations, scientific and technological innovations, communications and cultural exchanges, are shaping a global community. The same global community is threatened by environmental degradation, ***severe food crises,*** epidemics,..."

ACTIONS

A. A Favourable national and international economic environment

Page 17, para. 9: In view of the great importance of agriculture to the economies of the developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, and the fundamental changes in the type of policies that are favoured under the Uruguay Round, we suggest inserting an additional sub-point between existing sub-points (c) and (d), as follows:

"(d) Reorienting agricultural policies to take advantage of the new market opportunities opened up by the Uruguay Round and adopting appropriate forms of agricultural support;"

Page 19, para. 12 (d): Insert as follows:

"(d) Promoting greater access on reasonable terms to technology and technical assistance, especially for ***small-scale agricultural, fisheries and forestry producers and*** small enterprises, ***particularly those*** in developing countries.

II. ERADICATION OF POVERTY

BASIS FOR ACTION AND OBJECTIVES

Page 23, para. 18: Modify as follows:

"Over one billion people in the world today live under unacceptable conditions of poverty, mostly in developing countries, and particularly in rural areas of ***low-income and the least developed countries in Asia and Africa***."

ACTIONS

A. The formulation of integrated strategies

Page 25, para. 24: Add an additional sub-point between sub-points (d) and (e) as follows:

"***(d) Effective mechanisms to reduce the incidence and mitigate the effects of natural disasters such as droughts, earthquakes and floods, on vulnerable groups of the population***."

Page 26, para. 27 (a): Add as follows:

"(a) Supporting the measures being taken in the developing countries, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries, to reduce and eradicate poverty, provide remunerative work and meet basic ***needs and*** social development goals;"

B. Improved access to productive resources and infrastructure

Page 26, para. 28 (b) and (d): Modify as follows:

"(b) Promoting ***farm and*** rural non-farm production and service activities, including ***sustainable agricultural, forestry and fisheries production,*** agro-processing, sales and services of agricultural equipment and inputs, irrigation, credit services and other enterprises through supportive laws and administrative measures, ***development and transfer of improved technologies,*** credit policies and technical and administrative training;"

"(d) Strengthening organizations of small farmers ***and fisherfolk***, community-based cooperatives and other organizations of small producers, ***particularly those run by women*** to improve market access, increase productivity, provide inputs and technical advice, promote cooperation in production ***and marketing*** operations, and participate in the planning and implementation of rural development, including land reform, land improvement, ***food self-reliance*** and economic diversification;"

Page 27, para. 29 (c) and (e): Amend as follows:

"(c) Protecting the traditional rights to land and other resources of pastoralists, ***forest dwellers, fishing communities*** (delete "fishery workers") and nomadic and indigenous people and strengthening land management in areas of pastoral or nomadic activity, building on traditional communal practices, ***protecting biodiversity,*** , controlling encroachment by others, and developing..."

"(e) Strengthening agricultural training and extension services to promote more effective use of existing technologies and indigenous knowledge systems and to disseminate new technologies ***and natural resource management practices***, in order to reach both men and women farmers, including through the hiring of more women as extension workers ***and the promotion of farmer-to-farmer exchanges.***"

C. Meeting the basic needs of all

Page 28, para. 32: Insert a new sub-points (b) and (c) between existing sub-points (a) and (b):

"(b) ***Ensuring the physical and economic access by all to adequate food to lead active and healthy lives, with particular efforts to facilitate access by those who are most vulnerable;***"

"(c) ***Ensuring that food is not used as a tool for political pressure. Food aid must not be denied because of political affiliation, geographic location, gender, age, ethnic, tribal or religious identity;***"

D. Enhanced social protection and reduced vulnerability

Page 31, para. 37 (a), (c) and (d): Add or amend as follows:

"(a) Developing (delete "long-term strategies and") contingency plans ***and management strategies for effective mitigation of natural disasters and*** famine ***including early*** warning, assessment, information dissemination, management and relief ***including provision of seeds and other production inputs,*** with relief activities evolving quickly into rehabilitation and development activities;"

"(c) Developing, in disaster-prone areas and in cooperation with community organizations, ***drought and flood mitigation agronomic practices and*** resource conservation ***and infrastructure-building*** programmes, ***using food-for-work where appropriate and*** incorporating traditional disaster-response practices, which can be rapidly expanded into emergency employment and rebuilding programmes in disaster situations;"

"(d) ***Establishing the necessary planning and logistical mechanisms to enable quick and effective response*** in disaster situations to provide food, medical supplies and other relief to victims and ensuring that the relief is effectively targeted to those who need it;"

III. PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND THE REDUCTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT

BASIS FOR ACTION AND OBJECTIVES

Page 33, para. 40: Agriculture accounts for 76 and 68 percent of employment in low income countries with annual per capita incomes of less than $250 and between $251-500 respectively. The share of agriculture in employment is still substantial for middle income countries, at 53 percent for those with an annual per capita income of $501-1,000 and 30 percent for countries with per capita incomes of $1,001-2,400 a year. Even in upper middle income countries, with an annual per capita income of $2,401-6,000, agriculture accounts for 22 per cent of total employment on average. The considerable contribution of agriculture to employment is not at present reflected at all in this section. The following is therefore suggested to remedy this gap.

"Growth in employment is currently greatest in small- and medium-sized enterprises and in self-employment. ***In low-income developing countries, up to three-quarters of the national workforce is engaged in agriculture. Special measures are needed to intensify and diversify production in order to increase land and labour productivity and incomes, expand agro-processing and other value-added activities and generate additional agriculture-related work opportunities.*** Informal sector activities often are the leading source of work opportunities for ***urban residents*** (delete "people") with limited access to formal sector wage employment and in particular for women. The removal of obstacles to the operation of such enterprises..."

Page 33, para. 42: Much of the food consumed by the rural and urban poor is produced on small subsistence-scale plots and in household gardens, or is collected from forests and hedgerows. This could be reflected as suggested below:

"There is much productive work of great social importance that is not remunerated such as caring for children and the elderly, ***producing and preparing food for the family***, protecting the environment and providing voluntary assistance to vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals and groups ..."

Page 33, para. 43: Add a new bullet after the 2nd bullet as follows:

"***Dismantling policy and legal barriers that prevent new firms from entering markets and that discriminate against the establishment of small-scale enterprises.***"

ACTIONS

A. The centrality of employment-intensive growth in policy formulation

Page 35, para. 46 (d) and (f): Add as follows:

"(d) Promoting mutually-supportive improvements in rural farm and non-farm production, including animal husbandry, ***forestry***, fisheries and agro-processing industries, aiming to expand and diversify economic activity and employment in the rural sector;"

"(f) Encouraging the conservation and ***sustainable*** management ***and use*** of natural resources, ***the protection of biodiversity,***, the promotion of alternative livelihoods in fragile ecosystems, and the rehabilitation and regeneration of critically affected and vulnerable land areas and natural resources;"

C. Enhanced quality of work and employment

Page 50, para. 51: Add as follows:

"(a) Introducing health policies that reduce environmental health hazards and provide for occupational health and safety, in conformity with the relevant Conventions; providing ***agricultural producers and labourers***, informal sector enterprises and workers with information and guidance on how to ***increase*** (deleted "reduce") occupational safety and ***reduce*** health risks;"

IV. SOCIAL INTEGRATION

ACTIONS

A. responsive government and full participation in society

Page 42, para. 66 (c): Add as follows:

"(c) Giving community organizations greater control over resource allocation, greater responsibility for resource mobilization and a greater involvement in the design and implementation of local projects, particularly education, health care, ***local cereal banks and food security reserves, natural*** resource management, ***construction, maintenance and management of irrigation and other infrastructure,*** and social protection;"

V. IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP

ACTIONS

B. Involvement of civil society

Page 49, para. 75: Modify the introductory para. as follows:

"*Effective implementation of the Programme of Action requires strengthening community organizations and non-profit NGOs* ***which*** *(delete "who") work in the sphere of education, health,* ***food security and nutrition, sustainable agricultural development and environmental management,*** *poverty alleviation, social integration, relief and rehabilitation, etc. enabling them to participate actively in policy making."*

D. The role of the United Nations system

Page 53, para. 83: Insert:

"A framework for international cooperation must be developed in order to ensure the integrated and comprehensive implementation, follow-up and assessment of the outcome of the Summit together with the results of other recent and planned United Nations conferences related to social development, in particular the World Summit for Children, ***the International Conference on Nutrition, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,*** the International Conference on Population and Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women..."

Pages 53-56, paras. 84, 85, 87: It would be advisable to avoid the creation of new bodies, the convening of new meetings on a regular basis and new reporting requirements, *unless* they replace previous bodies, meetings and reporting requirements. We would therefore recommend the *deletion* of paragraphs 84(c), 84(e), 85(a), 85(d), 87(a) and 87(c).

Page 53, para. 84 (a): This paragraph is somewhat vague and it is not clear what is meant by "to bring the specialized agencies into a close working relationship with the Council". Moreover, ECOSOC already provides policy guidance to UN funds and programmes, notably UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF (whose governing bodies have been transformed into Executive Boards) and does not need to serve as an international development assistance committee to provide such guidance. We therefore suggest that paragraph 84 (a) be *deleted*.

Page 55, para 86 (a): Insert:

"(a) The United Nations system, including the technical and sectoral agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions, should expand and improve their cooperation in the field of social development to ensure that their efforts and complementary and where possible combining resources in joint initiatives for social development built around common objectives like poverty eradication, ***elimination of hunger and malnutrition***, empowerment of women, promotion of small and medium-***scale*** enterprises and institution building;"

E. Periodic assessment of social conditions and social progress in the world

Page 56, para. 87 (b): Amend as follows:

"ECOSOC should be invited to review the reporting system in the area of social development with a view to establishing a coherent ***and streamlined*** system that would result in a ***periodic (eg. every five years)*** "UN Report on Social Development" with clear policy recommendations for Governments and international actors;"